

The Golden Peril

At a recent wedding in New York it was estimated that the wedding presents cost half a million dollars. This tremendous accumulation of extravagance is locked up in a strong vault in one of the big city banks, so that the "thieves may not break thru and steal." There it will remain, or in similar places, locked away from the world's need and the world's hunger. What is the lesson of this barbaric indifference to human suffering which such a spectacle exhibits? In that very city there are today thousands of unfortunate creatures who are destitute of not only the comforts but the necessities of life. What would Christ say? Sell all this trash and give to the poor? No clearer note rings in that revolutionary gospel of his than the sin of luxury and the peril of wealth.

Baby Parties

One of the very latest fashionable fads is to give baby parties for grown ups, where men and women dress like small children, talk like them, act like them, play their games, etc. Seems to us like a capital idea, as it must fit the intellectual capacity of a great many fashionable people. It isn't a far cry between the "small talk" of people, and the talk of small people. Listen to the chatter of what is called "society," and see what you think of it. Nothing is more abundant in this world than the raw material among grown ups for baby parties. And what is worse, a great many of these big little people reverse Paul's law of moral promotion. He tells us to be "children in malice, but in understanding to be men." To be a child in understanding and a man in malice is a sad perversion of the apostolic pattern.

Philosophy of Giving

It is more blessed to give than to receive, because the former is an expression of the higher nature. Receiving gratifies selfishness. Giving mortifies selfishness, and fosters the sublime trait of unselfishness. These two words express the whole philosophy of human history. All evils have their root in selfishness. The Adamic fall has aptly been called the lapse of self. Every form of wickedness following it had for its central principle some variety of self indulgence, and that is true of all wickedness now. The opposite then of selfishness must be the highest form of virtue. As giving is the opposite of receiving, it must be in line with God's thought and in keeping with God's heart. It must conserve the sublimest virtue. It must be,—it is,—divine.

As a Thief in the Night

This language is used to describe the manner of the Lord's second coming. The parallel is not at every point, for the Lord isn't coming with any evil or dishonest intentions; but it does apply at one point with startling and vivid emphasis, and that is where it indicates the unexpectedness, the secrecy, the suddenness of his coming. The thief comes when he is not expected at all, when no one is even thinking about him. His approach is so silent and stealthy that you have no opportunity to intercept him. Unless you are prepared for him on general principles, all the time prepared, he gets your goods. If you had known that he was coming, yes if

he had sent you word that he would be there at a certain hour of such and such a night, you would have had everything locked up snug and tight. Wise thief. Wise householder.

Now that is about the way it would be if everybody knew the day and hour of the Lord's coming. The price of linen and all sorts of white goods would go up at once, for everybody would be making ascension robes, putting on cotton righteousness, like the Thurmanites did, in anticipation of the divine advent, and the Lord might have considerable trouble in finding a single sinner on the face of the whole earth. In other words if everybody knew just when the Lord was coming, everybody would set about the task, just a few days before, of getting himself in sufficiently good moral shape to stand the racket, to pass muster at the judgment. There would be any quantity of this got up righteousness, which would be equivalent of course to none, or be worse than none, because it would be adventitious, manufactured for the occasion. Now people make exactly the same mistake in greater or less degree whenever they put personal religion on the low ground of expediency. The man who becomes religious in order that he may get himself to heaven, or keep his carcass out of hell, hasn't yet learned the simplest elements of true religion. True Christianity is a fundamental principle of LIFE, to which going to heaven or keeping out of hell are mere incidents. He who has this LIFE in him is ready for the Lord's coming at any time and at all times.

The Needs of Ashland College

Last week reference was made in these columns to the needs of Ashland College. We repeat, because of its importance, that, tho the needs of the school are many, the paramount need is an enlarged endowment. If the only school of the Brethren church is to do its best work the endowment fund which has reached \$16,000 should at once be increased to \$25,000. The \$16,000 endowment represents at least 160 persons carrying pledges of an average of \$100 each. It is safe to estimate that among the 160 who have thus pledged themselves to pay six dollars a year for the period of ten years the vast majority are poor people. We have positive knowledge of the fact that among the number are not a few of our preachers, pastors of churches who are receiving but a very meager salary, yet of this paltry sum they manage to save six dollars a year to carry forward the educational work of the church.

This is most commendable zeal, but it is not just that upon these men should be laid the burden of carrying the work. However it is a willing and cheerful sacrifice and will assuredly bring the promised reward. But let those in the Brethren church who have means and profess loyalty to the church in doctrine give this matter their serious attention. What have you done? Have you even as much as taken one single pledge? Surely there are more than ten men in the Brethren church who can carry \$1,000 each easier than many of the poor preachers with their small income now carry \$100. Who among our men of means will be the first to fill out a pledge of \$1,000? Ten such will give us the needed \$25,000. It means but \$60 a year, but to the school it means vastly more than figures can express.